

world's rarest tortoises to Asian and European collectors; poachers kill and roast scores of lemurs for restaurants; and armed loggers brazenly plunder protected forests, looting dwindling hardwoods for furniture. These activities not only deny locals access to basic resources, they also degrade the country's thriving eco-tourism industry which brought in almost \$400 million last year.

The United States has condemned this current government and suspended all nonhumanitarian aid and terminated assistance through a Millennium Development Corporation compact. The World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International and the Wildlife Conservation Society have all denounced the subsequent wholesale exploitation of some of the world's most diverse forests and the decimation of the local people's resources and livelihood.

As the World Forestry Congress convenes this week, we have an excellent opportunity to raise awareness to stop rampant illegal logging and the harvesting of species. I am pleased that the United States Forest Service chief specifically referenced our resolution, H. Res. 839, during his address to the Forestry Congress as an example of United States commitment. The international community, all of us, must engage before it's too late for these protected species and do all we can to prevent the irreparable harm caused by illegal logging.

This resolution condemns the ongoing tragedy and calls for the restoration of the rule of law and shows that the Federal Government will fight to help the people of Madagascar protect these resources.

I hope my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring House Resolution 839 so that the House can do its part to stop this outrage.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Together let us thank God for another day of life. Lord, we are truly gifted with another opportunity to praise and thank You for our many blessings. By our being truly present to others today by our work in public service on behalf of others, Lord, may

we lift up their spirits and provide some hope to those most in need.

Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your wonders that surround us. May a faith vision shape our priority of issues demanding our attention and may honest responsibility reveal just how much ability we have to respond to all Your people and the common good of the Nation.

Open our hearts, Lord, that we may trust the wisdom shared and the faith witnessed when we truly listen to one another. May each of us draw closer to one another and so strengthen the union of these United States and give You the glory both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ADLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

GUN CONTROL

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court said last year that the Second Amendment means what it says: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." There is nothing vague about that personal right. Never mind, Chicago still has a gun ban law.

So the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case where those who believe in liberty are challenging the Chicago antigun law. Gun Grabbers pass a gun ban claiming it reduces crime, but crime actually goes up in banishment areas. So this is not about crime.

The antigun lobby steals individual freedom under the false pretext of providing security by government. In reality, these people want more government intrusion into our personal lives. Obliteration of the Second Amendment is one of the most intrusive methods they use. Gun control is really government control.

The Second Amendment was, among other things, originally designed to protect people against tyranny. Thomas Jefferson said, "Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not."

The right to bear arms should apply even in Chicago, whether the paranoid gun control crowd likes it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATS' HEALTH CARE PLAN WILL KILL JOBS

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, having run a small business, I know what it's like to meet a payroll and offer health care benefits to my employees. I know what it's like to create jobs for families struggling to make ends meet. I also understand the consequences for small businesses when Washington imposes higher taxes, new government mandates, and more red tape.

Americans know that small businesses are the engine of job creation in their communities; government is not. And more than ever before, small businesses need solutions from Washington that help create jobs and provide quality, affordable health care for their employees.

Republicans have been offering those solutions all year long: solutions like allowing small business to join together to get health insurance at lower rates—the same way that large businesses and labor unions do today; promoting wellness and expanded health savings accounts to provide additional flexibility to small businesses; and ending junk lawsuits to lower health care costs for small businesses and all Americans.

Under the Democrats' costly government-run plan, however, health care costs are going to go up and countless small business jobs will be destroyed as a result. At the heart of the Democrats' plan is a massive tax increase which will fall most heavily on entrepreneurs that run small businesses. It also includes the harsh mandate that requires employers to provide health insurance or face a steep tax.

It will kill jobs, plain and simple.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LANCE CORPORAL ALFONSO OCHOA, JR.

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Lance Corporal Alfonso Ochoa, Jr., who was recently killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

A native of Armona, California, Alfonso joined the Marine Corps only after graduating early from Hanford High School. His enthusiasm for his country and his commitments were apparent to all who knew him. It is my hope that Alfonso's strength, valor, and pride in our Nation will serve as an example for all of us.

My thoughts are with his father and mother, as well as his wife, whom he just married 6 months ago, and go out on behalf of all Americans.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention that two other

servicemembers from the Central Valley recently sustained serious injuries overseas, and I wish them and their families comfort and strength during these difficult times and a speedy recovery.

Staff Sergeant Christian Hughes and Senior Airman Phillip Newlyn, both of Fresno, California, are at Walter Reed Medical Center; and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these soldiers, their courage, and their service to their country and wish them a smooth and speedy recovery.

THANK YOU, COMMANDER CARNEY

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I want to praise one of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle, my shipmate in the Navy, Congressman CHRIS CARNEY.

CHRIS is a commander in the Navy and just completed 2 weeks of active duty. He served as a combat mission operations commander for the Predator and Reaper Hunter/Killer UAVs, as well as the Global Hawk.

Commander CARNEY was the first sailor to be certified as a mission commander, now with the call sign of "Big House." Over the past couple of weeks, his unit flew dozens of missions over Afghanistan and Iraq providing our troops with intel and reconnaissance. They also took out Taliban terrorists with Hellfire missiles and helped with the search and rescue of Americans.

If you see Commander Congressman CHRIS CARNEY back at work today, thank him for his service to our Nation in uniform as one of our citizen-sailors.

WHITE HOUSE ATTACKS FOX NEWS FOR TELLING TRUTH

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with unemployment at a 26-year high, a record budget deficit, and a looming health care bill that punishes taxpayers and bankrupts the government, what is the White House doing? They are attacking Fox News for telling the truth.

The White House spokesman says that Fox News "is not a news organization." We need to fact-check the White House on whatever they say about Fox and any legislation since they are not being straight with the American people.

Separate studies by the Pew Research Center and the Center for Media and Public Affairs found that Fox News coverage is more balanced than any other network. The White House has no problem with other national news outlets because they offer biased reports and give the administration a free pass. In fact, network news programs have favored proponents of the administra-

tion's health care proposal over critics of the plan by a margin of more than 2-1, according to the Business and Media Institute.

The White House, like the national media, should let the American people make up their own minds, not try to control what they hear.

HEALTH CARE'S IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, for generations, America's small businesses have been the engines driving our economy, and they remain one of our brightest hopes for economic recovery.

These entrepreneurs represent more than 99 percent of all businesses in the country and create more than 72 percent of the new jobs. Yet, under the guise of health care reform, Congress is set to punish these innovators by leveling more than \$200 billion in new taxes. Those are taxes. The result of these new taxes will be the loss of an estimated 5.5 million jobs.

Our economy is in a precarious situation, the Federal deficit stands at \$1.42 trillion, and 263,000 jobs were lost in September alone. Why would we want to push a government takeover of health care inflicting further harm on small businesses—the very strength of our economy?

WHAT HAPPENED TO AUGUST

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion over Fox News, but last night I watched ABC News as they talked about the new poll put out by ABC and The Washington Post. And I scratched my head as I listened to them talk about the fact the American people now support a public option. The American people are rallying to the side of ObamaCare. And I wondered how much out of step with America would my constituents be, could all of these people who showed up at these town hall meetings be; and then I had a chance to look at the questions.

You ought to examine those questions. I mean, they put the public option in a box and tied a red ribbon around it. I might have even voted for it. And if you look at the difference in the responses of those questions as we had through this entire year, it shows there hasn't been that much of a change.

Now, I guess ABC News has joined the White House and the Democratic leadership in having us ignore August. What happened to August, Mr. Speaker? The American people spoke, and yet the leaders in this body and the

White House pretended it didn't happen.

We cannot ignore the American people despite what ABC and The Washington Post may try to tell us.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 19, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, October 16, 2009 at 2:18 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he makes a determination and certification of Haiti's compliance with HOPE II requirements under PL 110-246.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

HAITIAN HEMISPHERIC OPPORTUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP ENCOURAGEMENT ACT OF 2008—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-69)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

The Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2008 (HOPE II) (the "Act") (Public Law 110-246), amended the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) to make certain additional products from Haiti eligible for preferential tariff treatment. Under HOPE II, these imports from Haiti will continue to be eligible for preferential treatment after October 18, 2009, if I determine and certify that Haiti has met certain eligibility criteria set out in the Act.

Since enactment of HOPE II, Haiti has issued a decree establishing an independent labor ombudsman's office, and the President of Haiti has selected a labor ombudsman following consultation with unions and industry representatives. In addition, Haiti, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization, has established a Technical Assistance Improvement and Compliance Needs Assessment and Remediation (TAICNAR) Program. Haiti has also implemented an electronic visa system that acts as a registry of Haitian producers of articles eligible for duty-free treatment and has made participation in the TAICNAR Program a condition of using this visa system.